

③ “Friends in Need”

Chinese Economic Growth: Low

US Perception's of China: Cooperation/Partners

The “Friends in Need” scenario begins in 2000, with the decision by Chinese leaders for a rapid economic liberalization, and a de-emphasizing of the military aspects of the US-China relationship. Clearly the United States is warm to these overtures, and responds in-kind. In 2000, “Gush Bore” is elected president of the United States, and taking a page from the Clinton-Yeltsin relationship, immediately moves to strengthen relations with Chinese leaders at a personal level. There is high US investment in China, and overall economic interdependency between the two countries increases dramatically in the first five years of the century.

By 2007 this rosy economic picture comes to a crashing halt with a devastating global oil shock. By 2008, faced with high unemployment, social unrest, and mass migration, there is a backlash against reformers in the Chinese leadership, and a political battle ensues. The United States places strong support behind reformers, and goes to great lengths to prime the Chinese economy back into shape through an IMF bailout. Security issues are of course put on the back burner during this period.

The scenario ends in 2010 with the Chinese economy beginning a recovery, back on track with political and economic reforms.